

## **DAIRY CATTLE**

### **Contest Overview**

The purpose of the State Dairy Cattle Contest is to enable students to develop skills in dairy animal selection and dairy herd management. Students should also learn to be able to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of dairy animals and be able to communicate their assessment to others.

### **Contest Objectives**

Students participating in the State Dairy Cattle Judging Contest should be able to:

- (1) Evaluate and rank dairy animals based on visual factors of selection.
- (2) Orally communicate their assessment of the rankings of a class of four dairy animals.
- (3) Identify factors to consider in selecting superior dairy heifers and cows.

### **Contest Format and Scoring**

1. Contestants will judge five (5) classes of animals selected from the five (5) major dairy breeds. Only the final placing will be scored.
2. Four (4) animals shall constitute a class. Animals will be identified by the numerals 1, 2, 3, or 4.
3. No more than two (2) of the five (5) classes to be judged will be heifers.
4. Contestants will be allowed 12 minutes to evaluate and place each class. Placing cards must be turned in at the end of the 12 minute period.
5. For reasons classes, an additional eight (8) minutes will be allowed for contestants to take notes. The notes may be used to prepare for each contestant's oral reasons presentation, but may not be referred to when presenting reasons to the official judge.
6. Each team member will present oral reasons on at least two classes. The reasons presentation will be limited to two minutes per class.
7. A Dairy Management Exercise will consist of 50 questions involving dairy management practices. This section will be worth 50 points. Students will have a minimum of 30 minutes to complete the test.

8. A dairy herd select sire selection problem worth 50 points (see National FFA Career Development Events, Dairy Cattle Section, pages 14-16) (sample problem included on following pages).

(a) Sire Selection Exercise

- (1) The sire selection exercise requires members to use linear descriptive traits for one cow and sire summary information to make corrective matings. Participants will rank four potential mates for each cow.
- (2) Linear evaluation and production information on the cows will be provided along with the transmitting ability estimates of the sires.
- (3) A maximum of 50 points can be earned in this section (50 points per class).
- (4) A minimum of 15 minutes will be allowed for this exercise.

### **Contest Rules**

1. Contestants shall not place their hands upon the animals at any time while the animals are in the ring.
2. Each class to be judged will be selected by the State Contest Superintendent.
3. No contestant or teacher will be permitted to inspect the dairy cattle selected for the contest prior to the contest.
4. Contestants are not allowed to communicate with each other while the contest is in progress. Failure to observe this rule may result in elimination from the contest.
5. All teachers, coaches, alternates, and other persons, with the exception of the Contest Superintendent and designated assistants and judges, are not permitted in the Livestock Center while the contest is in progress.
6. After the end of the contest, the judge's official placing on all classes will be given and discussion allowed. Contestants, teachers, and others who are interested are encouraged to attend.
7. Each placing and reasons class will be scored on the basis of 50 points for a perfect score. The written test will be worth 50 points.

8. Official placing will be based on the dairy cow unified scorecard revised in 1994.
9. Ties between teams will be broken with the higher ranking going to the team with the highest ranked individual team member.
10. Ties between individuals will be broken with the higher ranking going to the individual with the highest reasons score.

## **References**

Advanced Livestock Production & Management (Instructor and Student Reference). 2316 Industrial Drive, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65202. (800) 669-2465. [www.iml.coe.missouri.edu](http://www.iml.coe.missouri.edu)

Introduction to Dairy Production 10-4101-1, Aug. 1997 (Instructor and Student Reference). IML, 2316 Industrial Drive, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65202. (800) 669-2465. [www.iml.coe.missouri.edu](http://www.iml.coe.missouri.edu)

MU Guides: 3110, 3305, 3653, 3805.

National FFA Career Development Events, Dairy Cattle Development Event. National FFA Organization, 1532 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309.

Hoard's Dairyman's Test, December issue of current year, Hoard's Dairyman, Box 801, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538; (414) 563-5551. [Http://www.hoards.com/](http://www.hoards.com/)

Linear Classification; Holstein Association, 1 Holstein Place, Brattleboro, VT. 05302-0808. [Http://www.holstein.com/](http://www.holstein.com/)